

Thanks for the info about the bridge. I spoke with Mo about Sue's comments and he indicated he meant to convey that a historical designation could restrict what can be done to the existing bridge. It doesn't mean nothing can be done or that the County will stop maintaining it. However, it could eliminate retrofitting the existing bridge as an option to address the safety problems. TxDot staff will investigate this issue further with THC and provide more information about what can or can not be done. After TxDot assigns the project to their design group they will be scheduling meetings to provide opportunities for more public input.

>>> susan barnett <sjb@moment.net> 11/29/2007 1:20 PM >>>

Steve-

Regarding the note in your meeting minutes about Historical Designation of the Hammetts Crossing Bridge....

I researched the history of the bridge and worked carefully with the Travis County Historical Society as well as the State Historical Commission as well as TXDOT's Lisa Hart <LHART0@dot.state.tx.us>. Everyone reviewed my information and supported the nomination, I had run it by Judge Briscoe who would have pronounced the designation....but what we lacked was the Owner's signature on the application. The Owner is Travis County. I sent the form and nomination to Commissioner Daugherty's office for signature. But did not even get a call back or a letter from him. When I called Mo Mortazavi, who I think may have worked for you at the time, I was told that he had seen my request for historical nomination but that Travis County had determined that they could not maintain the bridge with a Historical Designation (even though I had discussed this concept with Lisa Hart and know that to be untrue.

So in my mind EVERYONE saw the merits of Historical Designation for this bridge except Commissioner Daugherty and your staff.

Bridge History and the nomination are now in the Library at the Austin History Center so that the public can know it's history.

I in no way support wasting the County/State/Federal funding on alterations of this bridge or building a new bridge.

Sue Barnett